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period than any other known spectroscopic binary except β Cephei. The period of β Cephei was found by FROST to be $4^h 34^m.2$.

The velocity of β Canis Majoris, reduced to the Sun, varies between $+23^{\text{km}}$ and $+42^{\text{km}}$ per second. The interval between greatest positive and greatest negative velocity is two and a half hours. It is fortunate that the star is bright (2.6 phot. mag.). In fair seeing, and with a slit-width of 0.0013 inch, an exposure of eighteen minutes produces a well-exposed spectrogram. If an exposure of two hours had been required, the binary character of this star might easily have escaped detection.

It is not impossible that some of the fainter stars having broad and fuzzy lines are spectroscopic binaries of short period. On such stars it will be necessary to reduce the exposure time as much as possible, by using a wide slit and probably also a low dispersion.

SEBASTIAN ALBRECHT.

February, 1909.

THE VISIBILITY OF MT. WHITNEY FROM MT. HAMILTON.

In a note in No. 124 of these *Publications*, I stated my reasons for thinking that Mt. Whitney was visible from Mt. Hamilton. Professor WRIGHT has made some further investigations and computations on this matter and concludes that it is not Mt. Whitney but the Kaweah Peaks which I have observed.

The identification of Mt. Whitney in my note depends to a great extent on the computed bearing, which appears to be in error by a sufficient amount to make it coincide with the observed bearing of the Kaweah Peaks, and that Mt. Whitney is in reality just obscured by Milestone Peaks and the ridge which extends from them to the southwest.

April 2, 1909.

C. D. PERRINE.

LECTURES AT BERKELEY.

The following course of lectures was given during the present semester before the class in Modern Astronomy at the University of California:—

Dr. JOSEPH H. MOORE, Assistant Astronomer Lick Observatory—Thursday, March 18th, and Saturday, March 20th. Subject, "Periodic Variable Stars."

Dr. GEORGE E. HALE, Director Mt. Wilson Solar Observatory—Saturday, March 27th. Subject, "Solar Vortices and Magnetic Fields."

Dr. R. G. AITKEN, Astronomer Lick Observatory—Tuesday, March 30th; subject, "Comets." Thursday, April 1st; subject, "Visual and Spectroscopic Binary Stars."

R. T. CRAWFORD.

RESIGNATION OF ASTRONOMER PERRINE.

Dr. CHARLES DILLON PERRINE, of the Lick Observatory staff, has been appointed Director of the Argentine National Observatory at Cordoba, in succession to the late Dr. THOME. Dr. PERRINE left Mount Hamilton on March 29th, *en route* to Cordoba.

Dr. PERRINE's astronomical career has been a remarkable one in many particulars. Prevented by circumstances from securing an academic education, he nevertheless looked forward to engaging in astronomical work. Resigning an important commercial position in 1893, he came to the Lick Observatory in the capacity of Secretary, with the fixed purpose of devoting his spare time to the study of astronomical and related subjects, by way of preparation for later observatory duties. In 1895 his title was changed to Secretary and Assistant Astronomer. He was appointed Astronomer in the Lick Observatory in 1905. His first successes, the discovery of thirteen comets (1895 to 1900), were made as a result of systematic searches undertaken outside of his assigned duties. Dr. PERRINE was awarded the Lalande Prize of the Paris Academy of Sciences in 1897, and the gold medal of the Mexican Astronomical Society in 1905. He was elected Associate of the Royal Astronomical Society in 1904. He received the degree of Doctor of Sciences from Santa Clara College in 1905.

The writer recognizes with pleasure that Dr. PERRINE's contributions to our knowledge of comets, of satellites, of solar eclipse phenomena, of *nebulæ* and star clusters, of solar